UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.89
20 February 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 20 February 1990, at 9.30 a.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Tribute to the memory of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea

- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit [17] (continued)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

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90-64003/A 6546V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF SIR IGNATIUS KILAGE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The PRESIDENT: Before we consider the item on the agenda for this meeting, it is my sad duty to recall to the General Assembly the death of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, which occurred on 31 December 1989.

Sir Ignatius Kilage, who was appointed the first Chief Ombudsman after the independence of Papua New Guinea, in 1975, and who later became the fourth Governor-General of his country, will be remembered for his untiring dedication to his country and for the support he extended to the quest for peace and justice for the world. His death is a tragic loss for his country.

May I extend to the members of his family, as well as to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, my most profound condolences.

I call on the Secretary-General.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: It was with deep sadness that I heard of the passing of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, who served his country with such great distinction. I wish to associate myself with the tribute paid to his memory by the President of the General Assembly. May I also take this opportunity to extend my most sincere personal condolences to the family of Sir Ignatius Kilage and to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Sir Ignatius Kilage.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Mr. Noel Rakotondramboa of Madagascar, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the Group of African States, I wish to join previous speakers in expressing our deep sadness at the death, on 31 December 1989, of the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Ignatius Kilage.

Unassuming in his ways, even after having acceded to the highest responsibilities of his State, Sir Ignatius was deeply dedicated to the traditional customs and values of his people, to whose service he devoted the whole of his brilliant career.

I should like to convey the African Group's most sincere condolences to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea and to the family of the deceased.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Mr. Gharekhan of India, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. GHAREKHAN (India): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

We were saddened by the news of the passing, on 31 December 1989, of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. Sir Ignatius had a long and distinguished record of public service spanning nearly two decades, during which he held several important positions in his country. He impressed all who met him with his courtesy, simplicity and dignity. He personified the traditional values that so often provide a much-needed balance to the impatience and self-indulgence of the modern world. Although he ceased to be a pastor in 1974, he carried with him throughout his life the beliefs and convictions that moulded his contributions to his country and to the international community. The untimely demise of Sir Ignatius at the early age of 48 is a tragic loss, not only for his country but for the world.

READEX FICHE

(Mr. Gharekhan, India)

I should like to convey the condolences of the Asian Group to the members of the bereaved family and to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea. We share their sense of loss and wish them solace in their bereavement.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Mr. Stanislaw Pawlak of Poland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. PAWLAK (Poland): Please allow me, on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, to express our sincere condolences and sympathy to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea at the passing away of their Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Ignatius Kilage, who devoted his life and career to his nation.

We share the sorrow of the people of Papua New Guinea at the loss of their leader, a distinguished statesman and a great patriot. He will not easily be replaced, but we are convinced that his deeds in the development and promotion of his country will live long in the memory of his compatriots.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Ms. Marjorie Thorpe of Trinidad and Tobago, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Ms. THORPE (Trinidad and Tobago): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I would like to express our profound sorrow at the recent death of His Excellency Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Ordained a Catholic priest in 1968, Sir Ignatius first served his people in that capacity for six years. But his devotion to public service did not end in 1974, when he was granted a papal release from Holy Orders. Rather, Sir Ignatius went on to become, in 1975, the first Chief Ombudsman of Papua New Guinea, a position to which he was reappointed in 1978.

In 1989 Sir Ignatius was made Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George by Queen Elizabeth II, after he had been elected the fourth Governor-General of Papua New Guinea by the National Parliament. His elevation to that high office represented a fitting tribute to a distinguished nationalist who, for more than two decades, had worked tirelessly to promote the traditional customs and values of his country, a nationalist who to the very end remained committed to the ideal of a just and free society.

(Ms. Thorpe, Trinidad and Tobago)

Our sympathy goes out to the family of the late Governor-General and to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Fernando José Reino of Portugal, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. REINO (Portugal): It was with deep distress that the members of the Group of Western European and Other States learned about the untimely death of His Excellency Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Ignatius had a distinguished and long career at the service of his country as Papua New Guinea's first Ombudsman and as Governor-General. He was a staunch defender of a just society in which man could be free and traditional customs and values respected.

On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States I would like to convey our most sincere condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Thomas Pickering, who will speak on behalf of the host country.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): As the representative of the host country and on behalf of the President and the Government of the United States, I wish to express our profound condolences to the people of Papua New Guinea and to the family of the late Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General, whose recent untimely passing has saddened us all.

The life of Sir Ignatius Kilage was devoted to the service of his fellow man and guided by his deep spiritual and ethical values. He was an enemy of corruption deeply committed to democratic principles who laboured tirelessly to uphold the rights and dignity of his fellow citizens. His life is an example to us all, and his loss will be felt by us all. Sir Ignatius Kilage will be sorely missed.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

In keeping with the subject on which we are speaking, I would also like to express profound regret to the Secretary-General at the news that two members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were killed and six wounded over the weekend. I request that the condolences of the United States Government and people be conveyed to the families of these men, who were serving the cause of peace in the Middle East under the United Nations flag.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea): On behalf of the people and the Government of Papua New Guinea and the family of Sir Ignatius Kilage, may I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your expressions of condolence and sympathy for the late Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Ignatius was a simple but highly educated and committed man, committed to the principles of human rights and the dignity of mankind. He was a man of peace and honour. Sir Ignatius will be long remembered for his invaluable contribution and dedication to the people of Papua New Guinea and to our nation.

Papua New Guinea is made up of many different linguistic groups with more than 750 languages and dialects. The unity of our nation and our people is of paramount importance to all Papua New Guineans. Sir Ignatius was a true nationalist who used his viceregal post to promote peace, unity, justice and equal rights for all, not only in Papua New Guinea but throughout the world. Sir Ignatius believed that the rights of all peoples must prevail throughout the whole of society and, therefore, that the Government and leaders, whether traditional leaders or business leaders, have to serve the people in the right way, with equality.

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

Your messages, your sympathy and condolences, have been heard in our traditional way by the spirit of Sir Ignatius, who is with us today. However, those messages will be conveyed and relayed to his family and to the people and the Government of Papua New Guinea. I thank you again most kindly for your gracious words.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

(h) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

The PRESIDENT: In connection with agenda item 17 (h) four notes have been circulated in documents A/44/803 and Addenda 1, 2 and 3. Members will recall that, as indicated in document A/44/813, the General Assembly is required during its current session to appoint four members to fill the vacancies in the Joint Inspection Unit that will arise from the expiration of the terms of office on 31 December 1990 of Mr. Alain Gourdon of France, Mr. Richard Hennes of the United States of America, Mr. Ivan Kojic of Yugoslavia and Mr. Kabongo Tunsala of Zaire.

(The President)

Pursuant to document A/44/813/Add.1, the General Assembly at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 15 December 1989, by its decision 44/316 appointed Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski of Poland and Mr. Kabongo Tunsala of Zaire for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1991 and expiring on 31 December 1995.

However, as indicated in document A/44/813/Add.2, on 15 December 1989 the number of candidates from the Western European and other States still exceeded the number of vacancies from that region and, therefore, the Assembly, on my proposal, at that same meeting selected by secret ballot two countries, namely, Greece and the United States of America, which were then requested to propose candidates.

As indicated in document A/44/813/Add.3, as a result of further consultations in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, I now propose to appoint, with the concurrence of the General Assembly, Mrs. Erica-Irene Daes of Greece and Mr. Richard Hennes of the United States of America as members of the Joint Inspection Unit for a term commencing on 1 January 1991 and expiring on 31 December 1995.

May I take it that the General Assembly concurs with those appointments?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Daes and Mr. Hennes on their appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

That concludes our consideration of sub-item (h) of item 17.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

(The President)

Pursuant to document A/44/813/Add.1, the General Assembly at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 15 December 1989, by its decision 44/316 appointed Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski of Poland and Mr. Kabongo Tunsala of Zaire for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1991 and expiring on 31 December 1995.

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May I take it that the General Assembly concurs with those appointments?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Daes and Mr. Hennes on their appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

That concludes our consideration of sub-item (h) of item 17.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.90
12 March 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 12 March 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. HURST (Antigua and Barbuda)
(Vice-President)

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [129] (continued)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [8] (continued): note by the Secretary-General

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90-64009/A 6757V (E)

(The President)

I should like to invite the attention of members to a note by the Secretary-General (A/44/925) informing the General Assembly that the President of the General Assembly has received a letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia requesting a slight modification of the dates of the eighteenth special session.

(The President)

In order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to re-open consideration of agenda item 83, entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1990".

Under the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to re-opening consideration of agenda item 83?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to the letter of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia contained in the annex to document A/44/925.

As specified in the letter, the States members of the Islamic Group, after consultations, recommended that the Assembly hold its special session from Monday, 23 April to Saturday, 28 April, with no meetings being held on the day of the Eid-es-Seghir - either Wednesday, 25 April or Thursday, 26 April.

Should the General Assembly decide to extend its eighteenth special session through Saturday, 28 April, additional costs would arise for overtime payments to support staff in the various offices concerned in respect of meetings held on 28 April. I am informed that these additional costs would be absorbed and that no additional appropriations in this respect would be requested.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

Mr. AL-KAHTANY (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Islamic Group, I wish to thank all Member States for having unanimously supported our recommendation.

As you mentioned, Mr. President, the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to international economic co-operation, coincides with the Muslim feast from 25 to 29 April 1990 at the end of the month of Ramadan. Since it is one of the two major feasts of Islam and since it would therefore be difficult to ensure the participation of Islamic delegations, representing one third of the membership of the United Nations, we requested that no United Nations meetings be held during that period. However, after intensive consultations with the regional groups, and thanks to the efforts of the President and the Secretary-General, it was agreed that no meeting of the General Assembly should be held during the feast of the Eid-es-Seghir. We are very pleased with the unanimous agreement and co-operation, and hope that it will be borne in mind in the future.

On behalf of all the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the regional groups and the President, the Secretary-General, the two Assistant Secretaries-General and the Secretariat for their co-operation and understanding.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 83.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.91
26 March 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 26 March 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Tribute to the memory of Zenon Rossides, Ambassador and Special Adviser in the delegation of Cyprus and former Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [129] (continued)

- Development and international economic co-operation [82] (continued)

  (f) Environment

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90-64015/A 7103V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF ZENON ROSSIDES, AMBASSADOR AND SPECIAL ADVISER IN THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS AND FORMER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT: I should like to invite members of the Assembly to join in a tribute to the memory of Zenon Rossides, Ambassador and Special Adviser in the delegation of Cyprus, who passed away on 13 March 1990.

Ambassador Rossides became his country's first Permanent Representative to the United Nations when Cyprus achieved independence in 1960, a post he held until 1979. During his long and outstanding career at the United Nations he held the offices of Chairman of the Sixth Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. Ambassador Rossides will be remembered for the devotion with which he served his country and the cause of the United Nations.

On behalf of the General Assembly and on my own behalf I request the representative of Cyprus kindly to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Cyprus and to the bereaved family.

I now invite members of the Assembly to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Zenon Rossides.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Cyprus.

Mr. EFTYCHIOU (Cyprus): I feel greatly moved by this solemn occasion and the kind words expressed with regard to the late Permanent Representative of Cyprus, Ambassador Zenon Rossides. At times like the present, one cannot but think of the ephemeral nature of our existence and our swift passage through this world. As individuals and as members of the world community we can only hope that this passage of ours will be a fruitful one and that, by overcoming our human weaknesses, we will be able to contribute in a positive and constructive manner for a more safe, just and humane world in which the generations that will follow may live in peace and harmony.

The late Ambassador Rossides had nothing more than those as his goals throughout his life. As a young lawyer he devoted himself to the cause of his native land, Cyprus, for independence. Whether in Cyprus or representing Cyprus abroad, he was always in the forefront of all its struggles. Upon Cyprus's attainment of independence, he was appointed the first Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations, a post he held until 1979. Many of the people who knew him or who were associated with him can remember him at this rostrum, championing with consistent dedication and courage the very principles and causes we all hold so dear and for which the Organization was created. He was greatly involved and actively participated in all United Nations efforts for decolonization, disarmament and safeguarding the environment. Above all, however, his actions were always governed by his love for his fellow man and the necessity to create a better, safer and more just world for all humanity, a goal that he pursued to his very last days.

For us, his compatriots, his passing is not simply the loss of a colleague. It is the loss of a friend, a teacher and mentor and, above all, of a person with a mission in life for which we are all grateful. He will definitely be sorely missed

(Mr. Eftychiou, Cyprus)

by all who knew and worked with him. His memory, however, will always remain with us, a guide and talisman of our future actions.

In concluding, I should like to thank you, Mr. President, once again for your kind words and condolences to my Government and to the family of Ambassador Rossides.

AGENDA ITEM 129 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/44/926/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: I should like, in keeping with established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/44/926/Add.1, which contains a letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, and to point out that, as already reflected in that communication, Mauritania and Benin have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 82 (continued)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

(f) ENVIRONMENT (A/44/48 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT: This afternoon the Assembly has reconvened to consider sub-item (f) of agenda item 82, "Environment".

Members will recall that the item was inadvertently closed at the 85th plenary meeting on 22 December 1989. However, the item should have been retained in the Assembly's agenda in light of paragraph 3 of the report of the Fifth Committee in document A/44/903. In its report the Fifth Committee, in connection with the preparations for the conference, stated that such additional requirements for 1990-1991 as would be identified on the basis of decisions to be made by the

(The President)

Preparatory Committee at its organizational session in March 1990 would be submitted to a resumed session of the Assembly.

May I take it, therefore, that the Assembly agrees that agenda item 82 (f), "Environment", is retained in the agenda of the forty-fourth session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The report of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has been circulated in document A/44/48 and Corr.1. In this connection I should like to draw the attention of members to the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 55 of its report, section IV, entitled "Matters calling for action by the General Assembly", and to paragraphs 56 and 57, section V, entitled "Matters brought to the attention of the General Assembly".

Pursuant to consultations held with a view to disposing of this matter in the most expeditious manner, it is proposed that consideration of the report of the Preparatory Committee under agenda item 82 (f) be taken up directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it the Assembly agrees to this procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose that the list of speakers be closed today at 6 p.m. May I take it there is no objection to this proposal?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I request representatives who wish to participate in the debate to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

Since there are no speakers inscribed on the list for this afternoon's meeting, the next meeting of the General Assembly will be held tomorrow morning, Tuesday, 27 March, if any speakers have by then been inscribed on the list. If

(The President)

there are no speakers for a meeting tomorrow morning, the next meeting of the Assembly will be on Thursday, 29 March, in the afternoon to take action on the draft decision in paragraph 55 of document A/44/48 and Corr.1.

For its part, however, the Fifth Committee will meet in the morning on Wednesday, 28 March, to consider the programme budget implications of the draft decision.

I call upon the representative of Bolivia.

Mr. ZULETA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Group of 77, I should like to state that the Group will be very happy to join in a consensus on the adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on its organisational session held from 5 to 16 March 1990, provided that we are given some clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the Conference.

The PRESIDENT: I would repeat what I said concerning the meeting of the Fifth Committee in the morning of Wednesday, 28 March, to consider the programme budget implications of the draft decision. I also said that the Assembly would meet on Thursday, 29 March, in the afternoon. I believe that those two meetings ought to clarify the concern expressed by the representative of Bolivia.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.92
2 April 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 2 April 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: note by the Secretary-General [8] (continued)

- Pattern of conferences [128] (continued)

- Development and international economic co-operation [82] (continued)

(f) Environment:

(a) Report of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(b) Report of the Fifth Committee

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90-69021/A 7165V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/930)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to invite the attention of members to a note by the Secretary-General (A/44/930) informing the General Assembly that the President of the General Assembly has received a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences submitting for appropriate action by the Assembly a decision it took at its meeting on 23 March 1990 regarding a request from the United Nations Council for Namibia for special plenary meetings to be held at Windhoek, Namibia, from 9 to 11 April 1990.

In order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to re-open consideration of agenda item 128, entitled "Pattern of Conferences".

Under the circumstances, may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to re-opening consideration of agenda item 128?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 128 (continued)

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now turn its attention to the letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences contained in the annex to document A/44/930.

As indicated in the letter, the Committee on Conferences decided to grant the request of the United Nations Council for Namibia to convene special plenary meetings in Windhoek from 9 to 11 April 1990.

(The President)

It also decided to encourage the Council and the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of defraying part of the expenses in kind.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of those decisions?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Committee on Conferences also recommended to the General Assembly that it authorize the provision of records to the Council, in accordance with its entitlements and relevant past practice, in order to enable the Council to submit its final report to the Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly authorizes the provision of records to the Council in accordance with its entitlements and relevant past practice in order to enable the Council to submit its final report to the Assembly?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 128.

AGENDA ITEM 82 (continued)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

(f) ENVIRONMENT:

(a) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (A/44/48 and Corr.1)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/933)

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that the report of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has been circulated in document A/44/48 and corrigendum 1.

(The President)

In this connection, I should like to draw the attention of members to the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 55 of the report, under section IV, entitled "Matters calling for action by the General Assembly", and to paragraphs 56 and 57, under section V, entitled "Matters brought to the attention of the General Assembly".

I should also like to draw the attention of members to paragraph 7 of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/933) on the programme budget implications of the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee.

Furthermore, should the Assembly adopt that draft decision, we shall then proceed to take action on the recommendations of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Assembly will first take action on the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in paragraph 55 of its report (A/44/48 and Corr.1).

May I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to draw the attention of members to paragraphs 56 and 57 of the report of the Preparatory Committee containing a resolution and six decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. MISSARY (Democratic Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes to refer to decision III, on the establishment of a voluntary fund, the Arabic version of which refers to "supporting countries". The word "developing" has been omitted. The text should read "supporting developing countries, in particular the least developing countries". I had understood reference would be made to three delegations - that the purpose would be the supporting of three delegations to participate in the preparatory process.

The PRESIDENT: Due note has been taken of the comments of the representative of Democratic Yemen.

Miss HASSAN (Egypt): My delegation would refer to operative paragraph 10 of the resolution in paragraph 56. We believe that the words "as appropriate" should be deleted. They were not included in the resolution as adopted by the Preparatory Committee. The paragraph should read:

"Requests the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to present, on the basis of consultations with the Bureau",

and so on.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Egypt for her comments. May I take it that the Assembly takes note with appreciation of the resolution and decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Since the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee has been adopted, we shall now proceed to take action on draft decisions I and II, recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report (A/44/933). May I take it that the Assembly adopts draft decisions I and II?

Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 82 (f).

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.93
21 May 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 17 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [129] (continued)

Development and international economic co-operation [82] (continued)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretation of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

90-64027/A 7621V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 129 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/44/926/Add.2)

The PRESIDENT: Before we turn to the item on our agenda I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/44/926/Add.2, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General informing me that since the issuance of his communications dated 12 and 26 March 1990 Burundi, the Central African Republic and Peru have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 82 (continued)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/44/L.65)

The PRESIDENT: This morning the Assembly reconvenes to consider agenda item 82, "Development and international economic co-operation".

Members will recall that pursuant to decision S-18/23 of 1 May 1990 taken by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session the Assembly should consider, at a meeting of its forty-fourth session on 17 May, the draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries." It is proposed, after consultations with the sponsor, that the draft resolution that has been circulated under the symbol A/44/L.65 should be considered under agenda item 82, which would thus be reopened.

Furthermore, pursuant to consultations, and in order to dispose of this matter in the most expeditious manner, it is proposed that consideration of the draft resolution should be taken up directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to this procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Bolivia, who will introduce the draft resolution on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Group of 77, it is my honour to introduce draft resolution A/44/L.65, entitled "Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

This important draft resolution has already been introduced and orally revised, at the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee of the special session devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of the economic growth and development of the developing countries. Further consideration of the draft resolution was postponed until this meeting of the General Assembly.

The draft resolution calls for a two-day meeting for consultations among senior officials preceding the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September this year. It expresses appreciation to the Government of France for its generous offer to host the Second Conference, as well as to the Governments of Bangladesh, Finland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Niger and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for their willingness to host the preparatory meetings for the Conference.

The Secretary-General is requested to invite to the Conference all Member States and all specialized agencies and organizations that normally receive a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate at its meetings, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic and Social Council.

(Mr. Navajas-Mogro, Bolivia)

Finally, the draft resolution welcomes the decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance, through the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, in financing the expenses of representatives of least developed countries for the preparatory process and the Conference itself and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the participation of representatives of least developed countries in the Conference and the two-day meeting for consultations by financing from the Special Measures Fund the travel expenses of three representatives from each least developed country.

On behalf of the Group of 77 I recommend that this draft resolution, which has important implications for the success of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/44/L.65.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/44/L.65?

Draft resolution A/44/L.65 was adopted (resolution 44/241).

The PRESIDENT: Before I call on the first speaker in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401 explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I call on the representative of Norway, who will speak on behalf of the Nordic countries.

Mr. HOLTHE (Norway): In our statement at the close of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of growth and development of the developing countries, the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, countries I have the honour to represent in this intervention - especially pointed

(Mr. Holthe, Norway)

out the importance we attach to pursuing the special interests of the least developed countries in the further negotiating processes that now lie ahead of us. In the immediate future those efforts will be focused on, but in no way confined to, the Second Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris in September.

The resolution we have just adopted contributes to the preparatory process for the September Conference by dealing with questions of participation, thus hopefully excluding the possibility of stumbling-blocks in this regard. The Nordic countries would like to see the same principles applied to participation as at the First Conference on Least Developed Countries.

As was stated in our intervention at the recent preparatory meeting at Geneva, the Nordic countries would like from the September Conference a final document that is comprehensive and contains clear commitments to promoting the development of the least developed countries.

Furthermore, the particularly difficult situation of the least developed countries must also receive due attention at the June preparatory meeting for the New International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. The Nordic countries would especially welcome contributions from the least developed countries themselves for this purpose.

Ten years ago the First Conference on the Least Developed Countries was called because the plight of that group of developing countries called for special assistance measures from the international community. In light of the deterioration of living standards in most least developed countries, there is an urgent need for special measures and strengthened international co-operation to promote development in least developed countries. Let us together contribute, in the same spirit and atmosphere of co-operation that characterized the recent

(Mr. Holthe, Norway)

special session of the General Assembly on economic co-operation and development, to making the Second Conference on the Least Developed Countries a forward-looking, forthcoming and constructive event. It is in that spirit that we have adopted this resolution.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Ireland, who will speak on behalf of the States members of the European Community.

Mr. BURKE (Ireland): Speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States in explanation of vote, I warmly welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of this resolution. We see it particularly in the light of the positive result of the special session of the General Assembly, which resulted in the adoption by consensus of the Declaration on international economic co-operation for sustained development of the world economy and in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries.

The European Community and its member States are important partners of the least developed countries in their development efforts. They are important providers of aid to them. They have been taking steps to increase both the volume and the quality of this aid. The Twelve see the outcome of the special session as providing a positive impetus to the work of the Paris Conference, an international meeting to which they attach the highest importance. As the representative of the Presidency of the Community stated in his speech to the special session,

> "the Paris Conference should ... provide a valuable opportunity to explore realistic options for improving the operation of their economies. The Conference must aim to agree a range of practical actions to be taken by developed and least developed countries alike. Action, involving commitments, is urgently required for the least developed countries, many of which will not be able to achieve sustained development without substantial support even should they implement sound national strategies." (A/S-18/PV.2, pp. 7 and 8)

In recognizing the importance of the Paris Conference, the Twelve pledge their full support for it and for a successful outcome to its deliberations.

Mr. MATNAI (Israel): My delegation joined the consensus on draft resolution A/44/L.65, which the General Assembly has just adopted. It did not want to block the consensus, although it has strong reservations about paragraph 4, and particularly about subparagraph (b).

Mr. DUGAN (United States): Although the United States joined the consensus on the draft resolution, that does not imply that it has changed its position with reference to the resolutions referred to in paragraph 4 (b).

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position and have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 82.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

UNITED
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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.94
28 June 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 28 June 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. HUSLID (Norway)
(Vice-President)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: note by the Secretary-General [8] (continued)
- Special economic and disaster relief assistance [88] (continued)

  (a) Special programmes of economic assistance
- Tentative programme of work

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90-64033/A 8314V (E)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Huslid (Norway), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/957)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to invite the attention of members to a note by the Secretary-General (A/44/957) informing the General Assembly that the President of the General Assembly has received a letter from the Permament Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations requesting that the Assembly consider emergency assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran following the devastating earthquake that struck that country last week.

In order to enable the Assembly to take the required action it will be necessary to re-open consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 88, "Special economic and disaster relief assistance: (a) Special programmes of economic assistance."

Under the circumstances may I take it that the Assembly has no objection to re-opening consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 88 (continued)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE:

(a) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (draft resolution A/44/L.66)

The PRESIDENT: Before we begin our consideration of the item on our agenda may I, on behalf of all members of the Assembly, extend to and through the delegation here present our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the immense and tragic loss they

(The President)

have suffered. When one meets with a tragedy of such dramatic proportions one becomes very humble, and other facts and considerations in a way fade into the background or become irrelevant.

In the midst of sorrow I think it is very heartening to note that the world community has reacted unanimously with compassion and sympathy, a compassion and sympathy already turned into concrete and prompt relief action. That is really gratifying.

May I express the hope that we here in the General Assembly this morning will also show our solidarity through prompt and unanimous action. As members know, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has sent a message of condolences to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and has appointed the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as his Special Representative for the Emergency in Northern Iran.

I have requested the Secretariat to circulate draft resolution A/44/L.66, which is being submitted for consideration by the Assembly. Before taking up consideration of the draft resolution, I should like to quote from rule 78 of the rules of procedure in regard to proposals before the Assembly. Rule 78 reads, in part:

> "As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day."

In view of the limited time available and the desire of members to consider this item expeditiously I would like to suggest, with your concurrence, that we

(The President)

proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/44/L.66, even though it has been circulated only this morning. I might, however, also point out that the basic text of the draft resolution was actually circulated yesterday, together with the letter from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan that appears in document A/44/957.

Unless I hear any objections, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with my proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. KHARRAZI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, first and foremost I would like to express my appreciation for responding so quickly to the request of the Group of Asian States to convene a resumed session of the General Assembly and to re-open the discussion of agenda item 88, "Special economic and emergency assistance". I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for his timely decision to appoint a Special Representative to co-ordinate and mobilize international efforts. I am also grateful to you all for your support and participation.

The expressions of sympathy conveyed to my delegation and to the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this period of great sorrow and grief are soothing. I am truly touched and encouraged by the extent of the sympathy and support extended to the victims of the earthquake.

Allow me to give a very brief report on this devastating earthquake and an account of the current situation.

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

On Thursday 21 June, an earthquake registering 7.3 on the Richter scale struck the north-west of Iran in Zanjan and Gilan, provinces with 4 million inhabitants. This earthquake, which came to be known as the world's deadliest since 1976, flattened dozens of towns and hundreds of villages, and turned them into mass graveyards. The number of casualties and the dimensions of the devastation portray the extent of the catastrophe. According to the latest reports, around 50,000 people are dead and 110,000 injured; 500,000 have been made homeless. In the stricken area, which covers about 11,000 square kilometres, three cities are almost completely destroyed and 12 others have suffered extensive devastation. The reports also indicate that in the rural areas more than 1,500 villages have been ravaged or severely damaged. Some villages in the lush green hills of Gilan have virtually disappeared, and their residents are almost all dead. The disaster was of such horrifying magnitude that in some villages not a single person survived to bury the dead. In some other affected areas, there is not even one single house standing. Moreover, 400 aftershocks have struck the devastated region, some as strong as 6.5 on the Richter scale. The only way of seeing the devastation caused by the earthquake is from the air.

Following the disaster, all available national resources were mobilize and the rescue operation started immediately. The rescue and relief operations have continued non-stop. Being well experienced, thousands of Iranian rescuers, alongside 500 foreign rescue workers, toiling rapidly round the clock, pulled more than 100,000 victims out of the rubble within the first 60 hours. Tens of thousands have been flown by helicopter in more than 2,000 flight-hours to nearby hospitals and emergency medical centres. The Iranian air force has also flown thousands of hours, carrying in medicine, food and tents and transporting thousands of rescue workers to the region. Some constraints have hampered the rescue

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

operation, such as aftershocks, bad weather in some areas, and landslides which cut off roads and threatened the rescuers. Villages perched atop the heights are accessible only by helicopter. Although seven days after the earthquake the likelihood of finding any survivors is remote, the decision to move from the rescue phase to the next phase is not an easy one to make.

With very high temperatures in the quake-stricken areas, prevention of outbreaks of epidemics from the unburied bodies has become an urgent task. Immediate plans for the provision of safe drinking water and for sanitation have been identified as the priorities for this phase. In this regard, more than 100 teams have been set up to fight disease and disinfect the area, but more supplies and equipment are required to fulfil that important task. Work crews are evacuating ruined settlements, burying dead bodies and spraying rubble with disinfectant. According to public health officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the possibility of the outbreak of infectious diseases is slim, but not zero.

As soon as the news of the earthquake was aired on the radio, thousands of Iranian people lined up to donate blood, relief items and financial aid. The response to the appeal by the Iranian Red Crescent society for donations was such that in just 24 hours the supply of empty blood bags ran out and there was no need for blood from abroad. In many cities, people have established special committees to collect relief items for the quake zone. Popular efforts and private support have been enormous and overwhelming.

Following the disaster, many countries announced their readiness to extend emergency relief assistance, which was welcomed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have rendered emergency assistance to the victims of this disaster. Up to now, 171 planeloads of relief aid from 86 countries have reached Tehran.

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, has expressed thanks to every country in the world that rushed to assist the victims of the earthquake in Iran. Lauding the people for their sincere assistance, he said,

"Muslims from everywhere, together with other countries of the world, rushed to aid the people of Iran with a feeling of responsibility. I thank them all."

Mr. Noori, Interior Minister and appointee of the Cabinet in charge of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the quake-stricken areas, has also underscored the importance of this assistance, saying,

"The timely presence of foreign relief teams with advanced and complete equipment has been effective in search, rescue, treatment and sanitation efforts."

Allow me now to point out some of the destructive impact of this natural disaster on the economy of our country. I have to emphasize that this is a very tentative assessment of the damage caused by the earthquake, whose dimensions may very well be worse than what we know at this time.

Being located in a fertile zone and hosting many industries and dams, the two provinces which were hard hit by the earthquake played a crucial role in the economy of the country. Those areas are known as the bread-basket of the country, producing meat and a wide variety of agricultural products including rice, wheat, corn, sugar cane, olives, tobacco, tea and various kinds of fruit. Under the current circumstances - with shattered irrigation systems, the destruction of the husbandry system and the death of thousands of agricultural workers - the region will be able to play hardly any of its previous agricultural role for the next three years at least. Reports from the affected areas indicate that the industries located in the region, including the Qazvin industrial zone, have suffered severely; in some cases the damage is irreversible. Moreover, much economic

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

infrastructure - main and rural roads, electricity networks, irrigation systems, sanitary drinking water supplies, hospitals, health care centres and other community facilities - has been destroyed.

Settling more than half a million homeless - let alone rehabilitating them - is a great task. Bearing in mind that winter is coming, settling the survivors is a priority. The temporary settlement of the survivors is going on through the distribution of tents. Relief workers have begun building 10,000 prefabricated homes in Manjil and Roudbar, areas which are prone to high winds that make tents unsuitable for use as temporary shelters. That is just the starting-point.

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

More than 50 per cent of the half a million survivors are children under 15 years of age. In addition to shelter and health care, this large number of children have special needs that must be met. Their education requires the very basic facilities for schools and qualified personnel. Many schools need to be built.

This great task calls for international co-operation aimed at rehabilitation of the people and reconstruction of the region.

The magnitude of the ruins is incredible, and the area's recovery cannot be brought about by relief and short-term emergency assistance alone. Enormous efforts will be required to alleviate the grave situation caused by the disaster. President Rafsanjani, after his visit to and a flight over the region by helicopter, stated

"Nothing worth mentioning is left ... It is like a small country that must be rebuilt from scratch".

He added

"The catastrophe is so great that Iran would have to have outside help".

Moreover, the Secretary-General's envoy for co-ordination of earthquake aid, visiting the quake-torn areas, told reporters that the mass media's reports about the depth of the disaster in Iran was "far less than the reality". He added that on his return to New York, he would co-ordinate with the Government of Iran, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and other related organizations for continuation of relief aid. He also expressed optimism that the United Nations would ask international organizations and institutions to help in reconstruction of quake-stricken areas.

The reconstruction of 15 cities and hundreds of villages in the north-west of the country requires thorough, scientific planning that meets the standards for

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

protection against earthquake. Rehabilitation of a larger area may prove necessary if the infliction of such heavy loss of life elsewhere in the future is to be prevented. Such large-scale planning and execution require the co-operation and assistance of the specialized agencies and Member States with experience and know-how, as I believe the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Essaafi, will confirm.

In view of the gravity of the disaster and its long-term effects, there will be a continued need, as a complement to the efforts being made by the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for international co-operation to mitigate the adverse impact of the earthquake.

The quick response to the request of the Asian Group to convene this meeting of the General Assembly clearly illustrates the responsiveness of the United Nations system and its Member States and their recognition of the urgent and continued need for international co-operation, not only to alleviate present human suffering, but also to make the area as safe as possible in the future.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his review of a terrible situation.

I now call on the representative of Pakistan, who will introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. AHMED (Pakistan): On behalf of the sponsors, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/44/L.66, of 28 June 1990, entitled "Emergency assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran".

I am happy to state that 23 more countries have joined the list of sponsors listed in the document. The new additions are: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Guatemala, Guinea-Bisseau, Japan, Maldives, Nicaragua, Niger, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, Thailand, Tunisia, the

(Mr. Ahmed, Pakistan)

United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. That brings the total number of sponsors to 112.

In its preambular portion the draft text underscores the deep distress of the international community at the massive devastation caused by the earthquake, in human and material terms. The text acknowledges the efforts of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in saving lives and alleviating the suffering of the victims, while noting the enormous efforts that will have to be made to overcome the consequences of this disaster.

The draft resolution recognizes the importance of international co-operation to mitigate the devastation caused by the earthquake and also the need to demonstrate international solidarity in order to ensure broad multilateral co-operation to meet the immediate emergency and to undertake the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The text also notes with appreciation the prompt and generous response of the international community in providing immediate relief assistance to the victims of the earthquake.

In its operative portion, which comprises four paragraphs, the text expresses the international community's solidarity with and support for the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their hour of travail, and expresses gratitude to the international community for providing emergency relief assistance to the victims.

There is a small procedural addition to paragraph 3. The Secretary-General's Special Representative is visiting the affected areas to prepare a report on the damage caused by the earthquake. It is therefore proposed that the following phrase be added at the end of paragraph 3:

"and requests the Secretary-General to present the report of the Special Representative to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly;"

Since this is merely a procedural point, I hope it will be acceptable.

(Mr. Ahmed, Pakistan)

In paragraph 4 an appeal is addressed to all Governments, the various bodies and organs of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to extend generous assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the affected areas.

The occasion which has brought us together this morning is indeed most tragic. Hundreds of thousands of innocent lives have been shattered by a devastating stroke of nature. The profound human dimension of this tragedy beckons the entire international community to extend all possible assistance and co-operation to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is in this spirit that I submit to the Assembly the earnest desire of the sponsors that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to inform the Assembly that three more countries wish to be listed as sponsors of the draft resolution: Ghana, Madagascar and Nigeria.

On the basis of what we have heard, may I take it that it is the Assembly's wish to adopt the draft resolution in document A/44/L.66, as amended by the sponsors, without a vote?

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted (resolution 44/242).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 88.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I have been requested by the President of the General Assembly to inform members of the tentative programme of work of the Assembly at its forty-fourth session with regard to item 36, "Question of Namibia".

The President was hoping to bring this item before the Assembly as soon as possible. However, there are a number of steps that must be taken in connection with the recommendations submitted to the Assembly by the United Nations Council for Namibia before the Assembly may take up the question of Namibia in plenary meeting.

In this respect the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee need to be given adequate time to consider the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the Council prior to the Assembly's meeting in plenary.

For the purpose of assisting delegations in the planning of their work, the President would like to outline the following schedule: on the week beginning 16 July, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee will, we hope, complete consideration of the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions on the question of Namibia, so that the

(The President)

following week, if possible on Monday, 23 July, the Assembly could consider the question of Namibia in plenary meeting.

For the information of delegations I should like to point out that the report and the draft resolutions submitted by the United Nations Council for Namibia are contained in document A/44/24 and Add.1.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

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PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.95
20 July 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 20 July 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Earthquake in the Phillipines
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [129] (continued)
- Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa: report by the Secretary-General [28] (continued)
- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: letter from the Bahamas, Colombia and Haiti [8] (continued)
- Tentative programme of work

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90-64039/A 8342V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

EARTHQUAKE IN THE PHILIPPINES

The PRESIDENT: Before turning to the items on the agenda for this morning I, on behalf of all the members of the Assembly, wish to extend profound sympathy to the Government and the people of the Philippines for the tragic loss of life and extensive material damage that have resulted from the recent earthquake.

May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any request for help.

I now call upon the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines): Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, the Assembly and individual members for the magnanimous and heart-warming expressions of sympathy you have shown the Philippines at its trying hour. Your kind words will go a long way to comfort the victims of the earthquake, their families and, indeed, the entire nation.

International response to the plight of the Philippines has been truly generous. Aside from financial assistance, relief goods, supplies and services are winging their way to the disaster areas even as I speak. With your support, material and moral, the indomitable Filipino people wil surmount their vicissitudes.

I hold forth once again to you, Sir, and to the Assembly and its members, the gratitude of an entire nation.

AGENDA ITEM 129 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/44/926/Add.3)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/44/926/Add.3, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General informing me that since the issuance of his communications dated 12 and 26 March and 17 May 1990 Nicaragua has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 28 (continued)

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA: REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/960 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: This morning the Assembly will first resume consideration of agenda item 28, "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa".

Members will recall that at its sixteenth special session the Assembly, by decision S-16/24, decided that agenda item 28 should be reopened in order for the Assembly at its forty-fourth session to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

In this connection the Assembly has before it the report of the Secretary-General, which has been circulated as document A/44/960 and Add.1.

I now call upon the Secretary-General, who will introduce his report.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Aware of the importance attached by all Member States to the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by consensus last December, I would like to introduce personally for consideration by the Assembly my report on the progress made in the implementation of that Declaration. That report, contained in document A/44/960 of 1 July 1990, is being submitted in response to the request addressed to me by the Assembly at its sixteenth special session on 14 December 1989.

In preparing the report it has been my endeavour to provide the General Assembly with a detailed and comprehensive picture of developments that are taking place in South Africa in regard to the question of apartheid and its dismantlement.

(The Secretary-General)

I might at the outset say a few words about the arrangements I made to obtain as much factual information as I could under existing circumstances. I felt from the outset that it would be necessary for a Secretariat team to visit South Africa to hold on-the-spot discussions with a wide cross-section of political parties, movements and organizations, as well as with the Government.

(The Secretary-General)

I am glad to say that when I discussed this with State President F. W. de Klerk in Windhoek on 20 March of this year he raised no objections. The Team, which visited South Africa from 9 to 19 June 1990, was able to gather a great deal of information touching on many aspects covered by the Declaration. I am informed that no restrictions were placed on the Team's meetings with persons and organizations and the Team was able to consult with whomsoever it wished.

Many of the organizations concerned have been very active in the campaign against apartheid. The information gathered by the Team is included in annex I of the report before the Assembly.

I have also provided a separate annex which contains communications from a number of Member States on measures which they have taken in response to the Programme of Action set out in the General Assembly's Declaration. These communications suggest that the Programme of Action has been, on the whole, adhered to and that Member States consider the Declaration and the international consensus achieved around it as an important element in promoting changes in South Africa.

The present report covers all major developments that have taken place over the seven months since the adoption of the Declaration. It shows that a process towards dismantling apartheid through negotiations has started. But it is still at an early stage. In this connection, it is clear that political parties and movements are in the first phases of developing their response to the emerging negotiating process. This explains why the report does not comment in detail on some important issues covered by the Declaration, particularly the question of drafting a constitution and the principles it would contain. That stage has yet to come.

(The Secretary-General)

I requested the Team to concentrate its attention on four specific areas. These were the creation of a climate conducive to negotiations, the introduction of an atmosphere free of violence, the process of negotiation towards a new constitutional order and the question of specific measures which enhanced or obstructed the process of ending apartheid. The report of the Team addresses these issues in detail.

The Team was instructed to keep its report entirely factual and not to make value judgements on the issues raised. Moreover, it was not the purpose or intention of the Team to undertake any independent research of data or to attempt to reconcile any apparently conflicting information it received.

From the views expressed by the various organizations, as well as from the information provided by the Government, it would appear that progress is being made in creating a climate for free negotiations. Of particular significance is the action taken by the Government to lift the ban on political parties and movements. However, other essential measures remain to be fulfilled in their entirety. These include the release of all political prisoners and detainees, the end of the state of emergency throughout the country, the repeal of all legislation designed to circumscribe political activities, the removal of all troops from the townships and the cessation of all political trials and political executions. It is hoped that further progress in the implementation of some of these measures will be made in the near future as a result of ongoing contacts between the Government and the African National Congress.

The Declaration of the General Assembly recognizes the direct relationship between an atmosphere free from violence and the process of negotiation. It should be noted in this regard that many organizations in South Africa expressed concern that violent activities by the extreme right and the ongoing conflict in Natal may

(The Secretary-General)

negatively affect this process. Beyond these concerns, there is a widespread belief that continuing resistance to change on the part of the entrenched structures of the system, particularly at the local level, as well as existing security legislation, serve as Damoclean swords over free political activity.

It is apparent from the report that a wide cross-section of the South Afrcan community believes that confidence-building measures, emerging from both the Government and the people, could help to reduce politically related violence and further the progress to a united and non-racial society to which they jointly stand committed.

Very little can be said at this stage on the negotiations for a new constitution. However, there seems to be a near consensus that the mechanism in this regard should be the product of extensive consultations covering a wide spectrum of organizations.

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the report is the declared intention of the State President to embark on a policy which would dismantle the apartheid system and allow a democratic process to develop a new constitution for South Africa. However, it was the clearly discernible view of all political movements and organizations with whom the Team spoke that, until the pillars of apartheid were removed, racial discrimination would continue to divide the nation and the cause of human rights and social justice would not be served. The initial actions taken by the Government to repeal - or to initiate the process of repeal - specific discriminatory instruments holds the promise of an early removal of some of the major institutional bases of the apartheid system. Equally, however, the evident wish of an overwhelming majority of the South African people will not be fully met until the process is accelerated and the entire array of such legislation is completely removed from the books.

(The Secretary-General)

I am convinced also that, unless concomitant progress is made to address the conspicuous socio-economic inequalities deriving from the apartheid system, the process of building a new South Africa will not be realized. It is evident - and this is a point I particularly appreciate and stress - that these inequalities are most apparent in areas such as education, health and housing, as well as in employment and training opportunities for the black population. These factors cannot be wished away. Their redress would infuse public confidence in democratic change and in institutions that support it. They would, at the same time, contribute to the basis of stability essential to the normalized political process.

(The Secretary-General)

What has begun to happen in South Africa is a process of so fundamental a character that further bold and imaginative measures will be required to ensure its fulfilment. Statesmanship and goodwill on the part of all its leaders are needed to give it momentum. The long years of injustice have not diminished the essential reservoir of goodwill that characterizes the South African people. It is that goodwill, above all else, that offers the real possibility of a just solution that would vindicate the national and international commitments to dismantling apartheid made by the present Government of South Africa, and the forbearance and vision of the black leadership.

It is my earnest hope that developments in South Africa will confirm the historic truth that a determined process of negotiations can resolve the most intractable of problems. The international community, for its part, has been understandably seized of this most serious issue over decades and is determined to assist the process. That determination is eloquently expressed in the Declaration, which specifically recognizes that it is up to the people of South Africa to join together and negotiate an end to the apartheid system and agree on all the measures that are necessary to transform their country into a non-racial democracy.

Needless to say, I shall continue to follow the situation closely and shall inform the Assembly of any major developments in the period ahead.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Assembly, I thank the Secretary-General for taking the time personally to introduce this important report. It will, I am sure, receive prompt, careful and detailed consideration. We also note with appreciation his offer to keep the Assembly informed of any major developments on this important situation.

(The President)

Pursuant to the consultations I have held with the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid and representatives of the national liberation movements, I should like to propose that, in order to allow time for delegations to study the report of the Secretary-General and to carry out the necessary consultations, the Assembly reconvene at a later date to consider his report.

The dates proposed for substantive discussion of the report are 12 to 14 September 1990, in the week before the opening of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to resume the session on those dates?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: LETTER FROM THE BAHAMAS, COLOMBIA AND HAITI (A/44/965 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: Document A/44/965 contains a request addressed to me by the representatives of the Bahamas, Colombia and Haiti to reopen agenda item 114, entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", in order to consider "technical assistance for the Haitian electoral process in the context of human rights".

It will accordingly be necessary to seek the approval of the Assembly to reopen agenda item 114.

May I take it that the General Assembly has no objection to reopening agenda item 114 and to considering it directly in plenary?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Following consultations with the representatives of the Bahamas, Colombia and Haiti, I should like to propose that the item be taken up at a later date, to be announced in the Journal.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to inform members of the tentative programme of work of the Assembly at its forty-fourth session with regard to agenda item 36, entitled "Question of Namibia".

It had been hoped that it would be possible to complete the necessary steps to consider that item on 23 July. It has now been suggested that the item be taken up on 10 or 11 September, immediately before consideration of agenda item 28, "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa". That would also be advantageous to the members of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions, who are absent from Headquarters at this time of the year. When the Committee is not in session, material has to be circulated by mail and the programme budget implications considered through correspondence.

For the information of delegations, the report and the draft resolutions submitted by the United Nations Council for Namibia are contained in document A/44/24 and Add.1.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.